19th July 1952]

Bodderu irrigation channel.

* 140 Q.—Sri K. V. RAMESAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations were received by the Board of Revenue and the District Collector, Visakhapatnam, from the ryots of Kaspa Jagannadhapuram, Veeravilli taluk, Visakhapatnam district, complaining that Bodderu irrigation channel is not serving their needs owing to non-repair and that the imposition of additional water cess on second crops is working a great hardship on them; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (a) & (b) The Government have no information. They have called for a report from the Board of Revenue and the Collector of Visakhapatnam."

Sri K. V. RAMESAM:—" Will the Government take action after receiving the report from the District Collector?"

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" After the report is received, I shall consider it."

* 141 Q.—Sri S. RAMALINGAM:—" I am not putting the question, as I got the required information from some other source."

Application of Factories Act to beedi industry.

* 142 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state— 11-20 a.m.

(a) whether beedi factory owners in this State have in order to evade the Factory Act introduced branch system so that workers should not get the benefit of the Factory Act; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take in this matter?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (a) It is true that some of the big beedi factories have got branches but it cannot be said that the system is adopted to evade provisions of the Factories Act.

" Even branch establishments where ten or more persons are employed come within the purview of the Factories Act, 1948.

" (b) In view of the answer to clause (a), the question does not arise."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN:—" May I know, Sir, if the factory owners violate the Act by introducing the branch system, have not the Government got the responsibility to see that the Factories Act is obeyed, and the workers are given the benefit of the provisions of that Act?"

[19th July 1952

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Beedi factories themselves have no workers attached to them."

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" May I know, Sir, how many awards were given in the beedi workers' disputes in our State, and what is the basic minimum fixed for workers in these awards? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question is with reference to the application of the Factories Act to beedi factories. The supplementary question does not arise out of that question."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that even if the beedi factory owners divided their concern into branches, still they would come under the purview of the Madras Non-power Factories Act? Has any attempt been made to bring these factories under that Act? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member is aware that judgments of Tribunals are that beedi factories are not factories in the real sense."

SRI A. RAMASAMY THEVAR :—" In view of the fact that in accordance with the branch system, which is quite unauthorised, beedies are being manufactured in unhygienic places and consumed largely everyday, will the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to apply immediately the Factories Act to all leading industries, as in the case of cigar industry, chiefly to avoid the manufacture of beedies in insanitary places, and also loss of revenue to the Government? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I have said, at the present moment, the Factories Act is applied to every branch factory where more than ten persons are working. If the hon. Member can give me any instance where the factories are violating the Act, I shall certainly look into the matter."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Have the Government forwarded any proposals to the Government of India to amend the Factories Act, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Notice."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in 1936 when the Factories Act was applied to the beedi factories, the Labour Inspectors visited beedi factories to see whether the owners abided by the provisions of the Factories Act. Where the owners deliberately wanted to violate the provisions of the Act by dividing their factories into branches, the Labour Inspectors said that they could not divide their factories into branches and attempt to escape the law. I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will kindly follow the same old method as was followed by the Labour Inspectors in 1936 under the then British Government."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Much water has flowed under the bridges since 1936. At the present moment beedi factories are not factories in the real sense."

19th July 1952]

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, if there is any law to bring to book factory owners who do not abide by the provisions of the Factories Act and deprive workers of whatever is given in the provisions of the Act in their favour? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Factories Act provides for penalties for those who do not abide by that Act."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Sir, as these branches are not coming under the purview of the Factories Act, will the Government consider the question of bringing these branches under the Non-power Factories Act which was passed during the regime of the previous Congress Ministry? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Gentleman has misunderstood me. Branches do come under the Factories Act, provided they have got ten persons. But if there are factories employing less than ten persons, they will come under the Shop Assistants Act."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Sir, will the Government consider disallowing the opening of branches by the beedi factory owners as these involve a lot of difficulties for the beedi workers, and the factory owners are refusing to give bonuses and D.A. according to the Tribunal awards? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am afraid the Government at the present moment have no power to prevent the formation of branch factories."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister has not given a satisfactory answer to the question. I request the Hon. Speaker to allow a half-hour debate to-day. This is a very important question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is not a point of order. To-morrow we will discuss the Industries Demand. I will allow the hon. Member 15 minutes to speak on that Demand."

Culinary essences.

* 143 Q.—JANAB K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any reports of the wide-spread consumption of culinary essences containing 75 per cent to 81 per cent of alcohol for drink in the district of Malabar and if so, when;

(b) whether some deaths have resulted in the district from an excessive use of the said essences; and

(c) whether the Government propose to prohibit the use of the said essences?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" (a) The Government have received reports from time to time of